

Message Text

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ORIGIN OIC-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OCON, GATT

SUBJECT:GATT STAFF COMPLAINTS ON SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

REF.:(A) GENEVA 6991 (B) GENEVA 7404 (C) STATE 254056

(D) STATE 249415

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS SENT FOR U.S.
DELEGATIONS TO GATT WORKING GROUP ON STAFF COMPLAINTS
CONCERNING SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES, AND TO BUDGET COMMITTEE.
END SUMMARY.

1. UNGA PLENARY SCHEDULED TO VOTE ON QUESTION OF SALARIES
AND ALLOWANCES ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17. OUR DELEGATION
WILL URGE THAT MATTER BE DEEMED QUOTE AN IMPORTANT QUESTION
UNQUOTE, THUS REQUIRING TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO PLACE
INCREASE IN EFFECT. SEE REFTEL (D) RE BASIS FOR U.S.
OPPOSITION TO INCREASE.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY COMMITTEE OF UNGA VOTED
AS FOLLOWS EVENING OF DECEMBER 13 ON SALARY AND ALLOWANCE
INCREASES (A/C.5/L.1216):

A. 6 PER CENT INCREASE - 54-2L(US)-12

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B. CHILD ALLOWANCE - 67(US) -10-7

C. ASSIGNMENT ALLOWANCE 67(US)-9-9

D. ROLL CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE-54-21(US)-12.

FIFTY DELEGATES, OF WHOM 10 HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO OPPOSE INCREASE, WERE NOT PRESENT AT MEETING. PLEASE NOTE THAT US VOTED FOR INCREASES IN CHILD AND ASSIGNMENT ALLOWANCES.

3. WE UNDERSTAND SOME DELEGATIONS ARE TALKING THREE PER CENT COMPROMISE IN UNGA. WE EXPECT TO OPPOSE.

4. FOR TIME BEING, MISSION SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW LINE INDICATED IN REFTEL (C) AND IN PARAS 2 AND 6 REFTEL (A). HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD NOT BEGIN ANY ADDITIONAL SPECIAL INITIATIVE WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES IN OTHER DELEGATIONS UNTIL RESULTS IN UNGA ARE KNOWN. WE DO NOT WISH USG TO BEAR ONUS TO ANY GREATER EXTENT THAN NECESSARY OF OPPOSING RAISE FOR GATT PERSONNEL IF IT TURNS OUT THAT ACTION TAKEN TUESDAY IN UNGA MAKES THIS RAISE IN EFFECT A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

5. IF INCREASE IS ADOPTED IN UN, PRESUMABLY WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE ABOUT GOING ALONG WITH SAME KIND OF INCREASE IN GATT, SUBJECT TO BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS.

6. FOLLOWING APPLIES IF NO REPEAT NO INCREASE IS ADOPTED IN UN. WE WISH TO PRECLUDE RAISE FOR GATT PERSONNEL EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT IS DONE IN UN COMMON SYSTEM. IF THERE IS NO RAISE IN UN, PLEASE BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO TRY TO LINE UP OTHER DELEGATIONS BEHIND VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RAISE IN GATT. IF NO UN RAISE IS APPROVED, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE YOUR MORE INFLUENTIAL COLLEAGUES IN WORKING GROUP AND IN BUDGET COMMITTEE MAY NOT PRESS ISSUE ON BEHALF OF GATT PERSONNEL ALONE. IF NO UN RAISE IS APPROVED, MISSION MAY WISH TO APPROACH DELEGATIONS OF FRG, JAPAN, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, UK, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND ESPECIALLY BRAZIL TO SEE IF THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEAK IN WP AND/OR BUDGET COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF A US INITIATIVE URGING THAT GATT CONFORM TO UN COMMON SYSTEM. WHOM YOU APPROACH IS LEFT TO YOUR DISCRETION.

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7. WITH REGARD TO PENSION SYSTEM ISSUE, UNGA WILL BE SEIZED BEFORE ADJOURNMENT WITH A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW A ONE-TIME CHOICE BY EACH PENSIONER TO (A) FOLLOW THE SYSTEM NOW IN EFFECT OR (B) ELECT TO BE PAID IN CURRENCY OF COUNTRY OF RETIREMENT AND THEREAFTER HAVE PENSION ADJUSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHANGES IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN THAT COUNTRY. IF IT PASSES, THIS WOULD ENTER INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1975. FYI WE ABSTAINED IN COMMITTEE AND OUR

REPRESENTATIVE IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN IN UNGA
PLENARY. KISSINGER

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